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EASTERN

F.O.
371

1948

PALESTINE

FILE No. 2

pp. 544 - 820

68514

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FO 371

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46

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1946

E 544

PALESTINE

13 JAN

Registry Number

E 544/2/31

FROM

J. Greening

No.

Panama

Dated

.1.

Received in Registry

13 JAN 13

London (local) and New York
After Panama 1/1/46 (E 257/2/31) transmits copy of note from My Foreign relations concerning the withdrawal of registration from Pan' A.P. and copy of Minutes of 14/1/46.

Last Paper.

5-43

(Minutes.)

References.

204/2/31

10759/84/31 47

The Panamanian are as exasperating as ever, but Mr. Greening's initiative really is sound, since we still look for their cooperation.

N.A. 12/1/46

[Signature]
(S.E. CABAE)

13/1

JB Jan 13

(Print.)

68514

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

[Signature]

(Index)

[Signature]

Next Paper.

E 546

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Panamá, Enero 3 de 1948.

Señor Ministro:

Tengo el agrado de referirme a las atentas notas de Vuestra Excelencia números 141 y 142 de 30 de diciembre último, por las cuales se sirve reiterar la solicitud del ilustrado gobierno inglés, en el sentido de que se proceda a la cancelación de las patentes de navegación panameña, correspondientes a los barcos "PRESIDENTE WARFIELD", "TRADE WINDS", "PADUCAH", "NORTHALANDS", "PANYORK" y "PANCRESCENT".

Sobre el particular, cúpleme remitir a Vuestra Excelencia junto con la presente copia autenticada de la Resolución N° 1530, dictada por conducto del Ministerio de Hacienda y Tesoro, por la cual se cancelan definitivamente, de acuerdo con las disposiciones que rigen la materia, las inscripciones en la marina mercante de Panamá de las naves denominadas "PANCRESCENT" y "PANYORK", que figuran registradas como de propiedad de F. B. Shipping Co. S. A.

Con respecto a los barcos "PRESIDENT WARFIELD", "TRADE WINDS", "PADUCAH", y "NORTHALANDS", cúpleme manifestar a Vuestra Excelencia que aún no se ha podido establecer de modo fehaciente la ilegalidad de las actividades que se le señalan a dichas naves; sin embargo tan pronto como que se cuenten con las pruebas documentales requeridas por la ley para establecer

Su Excelencia
John Dee Greenway,
Enviado Extraordinario y Ministro Plenipotenciario
de Gran Bretaña,
Ciudad.-

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Copia.

REPUBLICA DE PANAMA - ORGANO EJECUTIVO NACIONAL
MINISTERIO DE HACIENDA Y TESORO

RESOLUCION No. 1530

Ramo: Marina Mercante
PANAMA. Enero de 1948

EL PRESIDENTE DE LA REPUBLICA

C o n s i d e r a n d o :

QUE por informaciones oficiales obtenidas del Sr. Cónsul de los Estados Unidos de América, encargado de los intereses consulares de Panamá en Estambul, Turquía, se ha obtenido la prueba de que los barcos denominados PAN CRESCENT y PANYORK, del registro y bandera panameños, se dedican al transporte ilícito de pasajeros;

Que en esta ocasión tomaron a su bordo en EL BOSFORO, con destino a La Palestina, las siguientes cantidades de pasajeros clandestinos:

PAN YORK: 2355 hombres; 1914 mujeres y 1607 niños;
PAN CRESCENT: 2352 hombres, 2924 mujeres y 287 niños;

que de acuerdo con las Patentes de Navegación respectivas esos barcos no están habilitados para conducir pasajeros;

Que tal hecho constituye comercio ilícito, por lo que procede la cancelación del registro panameños de esos barcos, de acuerdo con lo establecido por el artículo primero de la Ley 54 de 1923;

R E S U E L V E :

Cancelanse Definitivamente, de acuerdo con el Art. primero de la Ley 54 de 1923 las inscripciones del Registro de la Marina Mercante Nacional de las naves denominadas PAN CRESCENT y PAN YORK, que figuran registrados como de propiedad de la F.B. SHIPPING Co., S.A.;

Se declaran canceladas asimismo las Patentes Provisionales de navegación de esos barcos cuyos detalles y características se expresan a continuación;

PAN CRESCENT: Patente Provisional No. 868 de 25 de Abril de 1927. Casco de acero, construido en el año de 1901 en Newport News, Virginia, Estados Unidos de América;

PAN YORK: Patente Provisional No. 839-NY de 5 de Mayo de 1947, casco de acero, construido en el año de 1901 por Newport News Shipbuilding & Drydock Co., de Newport News, Virginia, Estados Unidos de América.

REGISTRESE. COMUNIQUESE Y PUBLIQUESE.

(Fdo.) ENRIQUE A. JIMENEZ

El Ministro de Hacienda y Tesoro,

(Fdo.) Juan R. Morales.

Es copia auténtica de su original.
Panamá, 2 de Enero de 1948.

(Fdo.) N. E.

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COPY

No. 3.

BRITISH LEGATION,
PANAMA.

5th January 1948

9

Monsieur le Ministre,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Excellency's note no. DP.20 of 3rd January in which you were good enough to inform me that the panamanian registration of the s.s. PAN CRESCENT and the s.s. PAN YORK has now been definitely cancelled.

I am most grateful to your Excellency for the promptness with which so soon after taking over your new duties as Minister for foreign relations you have been able to settle this vexed question.

With regard, however, to your Excellency's references to the s.s. TRADE WINDS, PADUCAH, NORTHLANDS and PRESIDENT WARFIELD, may I refer you to my note no. 142 of December 30th in which particulars were given of the illegal transport to Palestine of a total of 5,060 immigrants by the three first names; the PRESIDENT WARFIELD being, as stated in my note under reference, of Honduranean registry.

I have the honour to be,
with the highest consideration,
Monsieur le Ministre,
your Excellency's most obedient servant,

(sgd.) J.D. GREENWAY.

His Excellency
Sr. don Mario de piego,
Minister for foreign relations,
Panama, R.P.

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Piece... **68514**

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E 546/2/316

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16 1942
 Palestine
 EASTERN
 E586 /G 10

E 586 /2/31/G
 Las Palmas
 1
 Dated 12 Jan

S.S. Medina

Last Paper.
 E 524

(Minutes.)

References.
 12091/48/G
 in depth

2/14/1

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)
 Home office
 Jan

(Action completed.)
 25/10/11

(Index.)
 up/11

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Cypher /OTP

Green
ES86
DEPARTMENTAL

FROM LAS PALMAS TO FOREIGN OFFICE

His Majesty's Consul D. 2.25 p.m. 12th January, 1948
No. 1
12th January, 1948 R. 3.45 p.m. 12th January, 1948

CONFIDENTIAL

Your telegram No. 1.

Panamanian vessel Medina sailed for Genoa 9th January with cargo of sugar from Cuba. Carried more rafts than necessary. Gibraltar advised.

2. I have no means of communicating with Madrid nor Teneriffe.

PPP

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	Palestine EASTERN	E58Y /G 12
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E 58Y /2/31/C
 Sofia
 63
 David Bagan

Illegal immigration

Last Paper.
 E586
 References.
 Ref not yet
 rec'd.

(Minutes.)
 We can answer (a) now from information
 in E 142/2/31. I have asked cc to
 investigate byms on the other 3 points.
 Tel. to Sofia accordingly. J 14/1
B.V. on arrival of ref.

(Print.)
 (How disposed of.)
 8) H.P. 14 Jan
 2) Sofia 62
 14 Jan
 2) Sofia 79
 Jan 17.
 8) H.P. Jan 20

Now see E 647/2/31
 J 15/1

(Action completed.) (Index.)
 2/3/2 W.P.

Next Paper.

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13

Cypher/OTP

DIPLOMATIC

FROM SOFIA TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Sterndale Bennett. D. 5.45 p.m. 13th January, 1948.
No. 65

13th January, 1948. R. 6.15 p.m. 13th January, 1948.

IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL

My telegram No. 59.

Illegal Immigration to Palestine.

I shall shortly be proposing lines which our reply might take. Meanwhile I suggest immediate telegram be sent to Cyprus asking urgently for information on the following points

- (a) How many passengers were carried by "Pan Crescent" and "Pan York" respectively.
- (b) Whether it can be established that the majority if not all embarked at Bourgas.
- (c) Whether there is any indication or the reverse that they ever had Panamanian visas.
- (d) Whether any Jews of Bulgarian residence were in the party.

EEB

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Registry
No. 5587/2/c

T.E.C.

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open.

Draft.

SOFIA

Telegram

No. 62

(Date) Jan 14

Repeat to:-

~~En Clair.~~
~~Cote.~~
~~Cypher.~~

Distribution:-

~~Dehenned~~

Copies to:-

I.I.P.

830/Jan

CYPRER F.O.
Despatched 194
15/1/14

~~Important~~
~~Confidential~~

~~Addressed Sofia Telegram~~

no. 63 - - - - -

Your telegram no. 63 [of
13th January: Jewish illegal
immigration]

The answer to your question

(a) is: "PAN YORK" 7557,
"PAN CRESCENT" 7612.

(As other) i.e. before we being asked
for information requested by you.

14/1

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

3149 Wt. 26469/137 100m. 946 (51) F.&S.

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NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

31.17-444-20469/137-100m-946 (51) F.A.S.

Registry
No. E587/2/6 J.E.C.

Top Secret
Secret
Confidential
Restricted
Open

Draft.

SOEJA

Telegram.

No. 79

(Date) Jan 17

Repeat to:-

En Clair.

Code.

Cipher.

Distribution:-

Departmental

Copies to:-

I.I.F.

15

F.O.,

17 1 1945

Despatched 2.10 P.M.

~~Immediate~~
~~Open~~

~~Addressed office telegram no. ---~~

~~Summary~~ ---

My telegram no. 62 of 14th
January: [Jewish illegal immigration]

Answers to remaining questions
in your telegram no. 65 are as
follows:

- (b) Yes, all;
- (c) No indication;
- (d) no indication.

J.P.
17/1

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Green
17

Cypher/VP
2587/3/G.
Confidential.

SECRET
FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO SOFIA.

No. 63.

14th January, 1948. 7.45 a.m. 15th January, 1948.

REPORT.
Confidential.

Your telegram No. 63 [of 13th January: Jewish illegal immigration].

The answer to your question (a) is: "Pan York" 7617, Pan Crescent 7612.

B. Cyprus are being asked for the other information requested by you.

A A A B

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E588 / 2 / 31/G
 Chaucery
 Bu Chaucery
 to E Dept
 28 / 1 / 48
 Dated 5 Jan

Illegal immigration

Last Paper.
E588

References.
E 606 / 48 / G.

(Print.)

(Minutes.)
 by Mr. Schen (N.S.)
 1/11

(How disposed of.)
 by Mr. Schen 1/15
 16. Jan

(Action completed.) 25 16/1	(Index.) 16/1
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<p>79-13</p>	<p>Palestine EASTERN</p>	<p>E589 /G 20 14.10.1948</p>
<p>E589 /2/31/G Mr Nofar C. O. to Mr Cable Y602.146A/4P Dated 13 Jan.</p>	<p>S. S. Maria Christina</p>	
<p>Last Paper.</p>	<p>(Minutes.)</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>J</i> 14/1</p>	
<p>References.</p>		
<p>(Print.)</p>		
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<p>(Action completed.)</p> <p>25/15/11</p>	<p>(Index.)</p> <p>W.H.</p>	
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COPY NO. 27... 22

100/540/GS.
TOP SECRET Headquarters,
The Palestine Police Force,
(Criminal Investigation Department)
Jerusalem.

TOP SECRET

18 December, 1947.

CHIEF SECRETARY (2)

Copies to - D.S.O. (4)
G.S.I. (2)
M.L.O. (4)
N.L.O. (2)
S.O.I.L.E.M. (1)
S.I.O.R.A.F. (1)
Major The Master of Forbes (1)

At 1.30 p.m. on 22nd December, 1947 a motor schooner carrying illegal immigrants was intercepted by H.M. ships some sixty miles north-east of Port Said. The vessel was kept under surveillance until 9 a.m. the following day when, at a position off Carmel Point, it was boarded by a naval party. The boarding party met with no resistance from the immigrants.

2. The illegal vessel was brought into Haifa Port and tied up at the cargo jetty. At approximately 10.20 a.m. on 23rd December disembarkation of the passengers commenced. Transhipment to the "Ocean Vigour" proceeded without incident, the operation being completed by 1 p.m. and shortly afterwards the transport sailed for Cyprus. Final breakdown of the transhipment is as follows:-

	Male	Female	Children
To "Ocean Vigour"	401	301	149
To Government Hospital, Haifa for treatment	1	11	1
Relatives of the sick to Athlit Clearance Camp	11	3	4
	413	315	154

Total - 892

3. The immigrants were mainly of Polish, Rumanian and Hungarian origin and appeared healthy and well cared for. cursory interrogation on the quayside elicited the information that many of them were previously in UNRRA camps in Germany, Austria and Italy. The camp at Polese in Italy was frequently mentioned. A few of the immigrants stated that they left this camp on the

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evening of 9th December and travelled by omnibus to a beach situated near Civitavecchia in Rome Province. Between the hours of 3 and 4 a.m. on 10th December they embarked in small boats which took them to the immigrant ship. The vessel was said to have sailed at dawn for Palestine.

4. With the exception of a film unit comprised of four persons (referred to in the following paragraph) under the direction of Meyer Levin, a correspondent of Overseas News Agency, none of the immigrants was found to be in possession of a valid passport for Palestine. A number of them, however, carried a miscellaneous assortment of identity cards and party membership cards which, together with various other documents recovered from the immigrants and the vessel, are being examined at this Department and will form the basis of a further report.

5. The following four persons comprised the film unit referred to above:-

Meyer Levin

Born 7.10.1905; U.S. passport No.17943, valid until 17.10.49. Visa for Palestine 29341 dated 21.8.47 - New York. Authority M/2294/45/H, valid for single journey. Correspondent for Overseas News Agency. Director of group.

Bertrand Hesse

Born 10.6.1920; French passport No.119835, valid until 17.5.49. Visa for Palestine No.85874 issued in Paris 25.10.47. Authority No.M/3715/47/H, valid for single journey. Cameraman.

Jankiel Iesk Michalowicz

Born 5.11.1922; Polish passport No.25840/2/46, valid until 11.12.48. Visa for Palestine No. 14616 issued in Prague on 18.11.47. Authority No. M/3798/47/H, valid for single journey only. Film actor.

Therese Suzanne Torres

Born 3.9.1920; French passport No.41602, issued in Paris on 11.4.47. Visa for Palestine No.33241, dated 12.9.47 - Paris. Authority No. M/4195/46/H, valid for single journey only. Film actress.

6. Levin stated that he was producing a motion picture about the present situation of Jews in Europe and their migration to Palestine sponsored by Film Documents Inc., an independent American company. From documents found in his possession it would appear that the project also had the support of the Jewish Agency and the American Joint Distribution Committee.

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Bertrand Hesse, the cameraman, was provided by the French Pathe News Reel Company under an agreement that, in exchange for his services, Pathe were to receive the news reel rights of material filmed on the voyage to Palestine. Levin and company were found to have obtained visas for Palestine under the pretext of making a film in this country. Their visas have therefore been cancelled and they are presently detained pending deportation. During their removal from the vessel Levin alleged that certain personal effects and film equipment were either lost or stolen. These effects, some of which may have been forwarded to Cyprus, are listed in an appendix attached hereto. Also attached is a copy of Levin's statement, together with the more interesting documents recovered from his effects. All photographic equipment and exposed film have been impounded.

7. The illegal immigrant vessel is a two-masted motor schooner of wooden construction of an estimated 300 tons displacement. Her diesel engines, which were sabotaged immediately before capture, bore the maker's name and number as follows - "Ansaldo, Genoa. No. 267/8/6024". The hold had been converted to carry a large number of persons by means of tubular steel scaffolding and wooden planking. The wheelhouse and cabin situated towards the stern bore the immigrants' name for the vessel in Hebrew and Latin characters - "Haganah ship - Unafraid" ("Lo Tefhidunu"). One life-boat and a large number of pneumatic life preservers were carried on the vessel. No crew, wireless equipment, charts or log books were found. Provisions provided for the voyage were mainly of U.S.A. origin, whilst medical equipment was found to be mainly of Italian manufacture.

J. P. I. FFORDE

(J. P. I. Fforde)
ASSISTANT INSPECTOR GENERAL,
C. I. D.

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Statement of Meyer Levin; aged 42 years;
occupation correspondent; religion Jew.
.....

I am a citizen of the United States of America. I hold a U.S. passport No. 17943. During the war I was a film writer-director for the U.S. Office of War Information. I had this post for about eighteen months and in January, 1944 I was transferred to the Psychological Warfare Division under S.H.A.E.F. command. I went to France and remained working in this capacity until August, 1944. I then found there was little for me to do and I accepted a post as war correspondent for the Overseas News Agency. I still hold connexions with Overseas News Agency to this day. I accepted this post with Overseas News Agency as it enabled me to be of use to my people in some respects. I have always had an interest in the fate of the Jewish people. It was during this period when I came into contact with the Jewish survivors in various European towns that I conceived the idea of making a documentary film of the remnants and their migrations. Before putting this into effect, however, I had an opportunity of proceeding to Palestine to make a film of the life of the Jews there. I came to Palestine in September, 1945, made the film, which was largely a private venture, and returned to the U.S.A. in December, 1946. This film, known as "My Father's House", is now being shown generally. I wrote the film, Mr. Herbert Kline was the director, whilst the two of us were co-producers. I left the U.S.A. in August, 1947 and went to Europe with the intention of making a film of the Jewish remnants and their migrations. The project is my own but is being backed by a small group of people with similar tastes. This group is known as "Film Documents Inc. Ltd.". So far about 7,000 dollars have been expended on the film. The intention of the film is to show the conditions which the Jewish remnants in Europe are experiencing today and to show what drives them to migrate to Palestine. It is my opinion that any propaganda value that might have been attached to the film scarcely exists now owing to recent political decisions and to delay in starting the project. The historical value of the film is, I consider, of greater interest and I feel that it would have been a great pity if events had passed by without being recorded. The story, briefly, is one of a young couple repatriated to Poland from Russia. They find none of their relatives living and for psychological reasons fail to re-establish themselves. They find they are going to have a child and decide that the child must be born in Palestine. The sequence is that the film shows life in D.P. camps, concentration centres, etc. in Poland, Czechoslovakia, Germany, Austria and France, culminating with the voyage to Palestine in an illegal immigrant ship. The parts of the young couple are played by my fiancée, Madam Theresa Susanne Torres, and Jankiel Ieck Michalowicz, who is of Polish citizenship. Madam Torres came to Palestine in

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1948 and joined me here. She played a part in the film "My Father's House". Michalewicz is a Polish resident in France. Before joining my group he was an instructor in a Jewish war orphan's home situated in the suburbs of Paris. My third companion is Bertrand Hesse, a cameraman. Hesse was provided by the French Pathe News Reel Company, the agreement being that in exchange for his services Pathe were to receive the news reel rights of material filmed on the voyage to Palestine. Hesse joined my group about three weeks ago and has only been employed in filming material on the actual voyage to Palestine. The sequence of the migration through Europe was filmed by other cameramen who did not accompany me on the voyage. I wish to state that I am completely responsible for the three other persons who accompanied me on this voyage. When visas for Palestine were applied for the reason given was that it was necessary to go to Palestine to film concluding scenes. The intended concluding scenes were to be the young couple landing from the immigrant ship in Palestine, permission by the authorities having been granted for this in view of the woman's pregnancy. It was my intention then, the filming being completed, to return to France with my companion in order to mount the film. I got into contact with the organisers of the illegal transport by sea through the persons I met in N.P. camps. I was given permission to make a voyage on the condition that I would not reveal the identities of my contacts or the circumstances of the embarkation.

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Documents found in Meyer Levin's personal effects during a search carried out subsequent to the recording of his statement.

COPY

American Joint Distribution Committee,
19, Rue De Tcheran,
PARIS (8e)

9 September, 1947.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Mr. Meyer Levin is producing a motion picture about the present situation of Jews in Europe. This project is sponsored by Film Documents Inc., an independent American Company. Mr. Levin is known to us over a period of many years as a journalist, novelist, and more recently as a film producer. We have full confidence in his objectivity and competence. We trust that Mr. Levin will be accorded every facility in carrying out this project.

(Sgd.) Joseph J. Schwartz,
CHAIRMAN.

COPY

Agence Juive Pour La Palestine,
Bureau De Paris,
88, Avenue De La Grande Armee,
PARIS - XVI.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Mr. Meyer Levin, of Film Documents Inc., New York, is commissioned to make a motion picture in Europe for the Jewish Agency for Palestine. This film is to include scenes of the Jewish situation in Europe, and of the activities of the Jewish Agency.

It is requested that Mr. Levin be accorded all possible facilities for the accomplishment of his task.

(Sgd.) Mark Warblum,
Representative in France of the
Jewish Agency for Palestine.

S.....

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COPY

Agence Juive Pour La Palestine,
Bureau De Paris,
143, Avenue De Wagram,
PARIS, XVII.

9th September, 1947.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Mr. Robert Levin, connected with Film Documents Inc., an independent American Company, is producing a motion picture report on the situation of Jews in Europe.

We are acquainted with Mr. Levin through his long record as a journalist and feel that his integrity and objectivity are established. We trust that Mr. Levin will be accorded every facility in carrying out his project.

(Sgd.) M. Shertok,
Head of the Political Department
of the Jewish Agency for
Palestine.

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From Meyer Levin

Germany, Nov. -

28

Until now it was not wise to mention Sammy's Place by name. But now it may be mentioned, since Sammy's Place has been given away by an enemy who described it fully in leaflets sent to the authorities.

Sammy's Place is in the mountains in the vicinity of Innsbruck. It looks like a mountain resort. It is interesting because it is near a border, and it is a place where Jews can cross from one country to another, without the authorities caring to take the trouble to stop them, since it is generally known that these Jews are on their way to Palestine, and their own people will take care of them, and they won't be a bother to any country on the way.

The people who run Sammy's Place are the men of the Brayha - that historic organization which during the past two years has conducted tens of thousands of Jews across dozens of borders, en route to Palestine. Sammy is a Brayha man. The Brayha is linked to another organization whose name is perhaps more familiar - the Haganah, the chief Jews self-defence organization of Palestine.

For many months, the Haganah in Palestine has been accused of "collaboration" with the British by the extremist groups who are responsible for the greater part of the campaign of terror against the British. This, in spite of the fact that the Haganah has lost many men and women killed in encounters with the British while conducting unauthorized immigration.

The Haganah has been outspoken against indiscriminate terror but has not hesitated to use force in protecting its program of immigration and self-defence.

As the possible creation of a Jewish state area in Palestine nears realization, these two factions have become bitterly opposed, in what amounts to a preliminary contest for positions of power in the state-to-be. Bystanders who have little good will for the Jewish cause have been delighted to observe signs of animosity which, they were sure, would lead to bloodshed. Soon the Jews who had been decimated by the fascists would complete the job by killing each other. In Palestine, clashes became frequent as the Haganah tried to keep the Irgun from spreading propaganda against the acceptance of partition. But the first mortal combat took place in Europe.

2.....

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It took the form of a raid on Sammy's Place. Early one morning, a few weeks ago, about a hundred men invaded the camp, beating up the boys who were sleeping there. They burned the trucks used to transport immigrants. They broke up furniture, smashed open doors, shot their way through the house. They killed one of the defenders of the Brayha outpost. They were looking for Sammy, the leader, but he had spent the night elsewhere.

A few days later, in revenge, the Brayha boys caught a few of the perpetrators of the raid, roughed them up, obtained certain information, and then let the men go.

One of these men was later found dead. The Brayha boys claim that the Irgun killed their own man, for betraying certain secrets. The Irgunists issued a bitter leaflet claiming that the Brayha killed this man and detailing the operations of the Brayha at Sammy's Place. This leaflet was sent to all local authorities.

It is difficult to understand the motives of the Irgunists. No one can deny that the Haganah and the Brayha have carried out the monumental task of bringing the Jews through Europe and out of Europe. They have sent more than forty ships across the Mediterranean. These ships have been named for Palestinian parachutists and ancient Jewish heroes. The Irgun sent one ship to Palestine, a yacht named after Ben Hecht, the American writer upon whose prestige is based much of the fund-raising activity of this organization's agents in America. They call themselves the Hebrew Resistance Committee and Liberation Committees and are involved in a dozen frontal societies. They raise money on the plea of sending Jews to Palestine and of giving medical aid to fighters in Jerusalem.

It is doubtful whether the people who contribute to these organizations know that the greater part of the money that gets out of the United States goes to support organizational activities in Europe, aimed at increasing the power of this faction in the event of American Jews responding to the appeal of a gifted writer know that their money goes to the support of bands that are attacking other Jews, in a simple fight for power.

The Irgun does not have any stations in Europe for bringing Jews through Europe to Mediterranean harbors. The Irgun is not sending boats across.

Sammy's Place was engaged in this work. To attack and attempt to destroy it was an action that might have been expected from a bunch of SS men holding out in the hills. But the attack came from other Jews, and a Jew of the Brayha was killed.

The Irgunists promise that this is only their beginning.

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List of equipment and personal effects belonging to the Meyer Levin film unit alleged to have been either lost or stolen subsequent to the unit's disembarkation at Haifa Port on 23rd December, 1947.
 =====

1. Byon film camera No.382128, loaded with four tins of unexposed film. (The camera's spring is broken).
2. Brief case containing private papers, ten rolls of "120" unexposed film, two Cassettes with unexposed film, one roll of Kodachrome colour film (exposed) and three hundred dollars in notes. Property of Mr. Levin.
3. One Hermes typewriter (property of Mr. Levin)
4. Complete contents of a suitcase belonging to Mr. Levin.
5. One sailors kit bag containing clothing and personal effects of Mr. Hesse.
6. One small knapsack containing personal effects and four rolls of exposed "120" film. (The property of Mr. Hesse).
7. Complete contents of a suitcase belonging to Mr. Michalowiez.
8. One small knapsack containing personal effects, from 15 to 20 rolls of exposed "120" film and five Leica Cassettes containing exposed film. (Property of Madam Torres).

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COPY

35

Suwannee Fruit & Steamship Company
Foot of Catherine Street,
Jacksonville 1, Florida.

January 5, 1948

Mr. F.J. White
British Vice-Consul
Jacksonville, Florida.

Dear Mr. White,

We have just completed negotiations to charter our Honduran MS "PATUCA" for a trip from Sagua La Grande, Cuba, to Genoa, Italy, with full cargo of alcohol in drums.

This vessel is scheduled to sail from Cuba the latter part of this week and upon completion of discharging her cargo in Genoa we plan to bring return cargo of cement to Rio de Janeiro.

May we ask that you pass on this information to the various Branches of your Government who may be interested since we do not want to encounter the difficulties we had recently in Gibraltar with our MS "BONITO".

Yours very truly,

/s/ C. DeMontmollin
Asst. to Vice-Pres.

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Registry
No. E 615/2/31
S.R.C.

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open.

Draft.

Mr. Higham
c/o.

from
J.E.
Mr. Cable

copied to:
Mr. Lelien (N.I.S)

RECEIVED IN
DIVISION
16/1
10/1

OUT FILE

+ / C

16 Jan 16/3
16 Jan 36

Confidential

Dear Higham,

I enclose herein a copy of a letter from Washington blaminy about the Honduran motor-ship "PATUCA", which you may care to fuss on the company's request to Gibraltar.

2. I am sending a copy of this letter and its enclosures to Lelien.

J.E.
15/1

Yours sincerely

(Sgd.) J.E. Cable.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

(217) (14728) Wt. 11489-144 250m 5/47 G.S.S.I.

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37

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

19th January, 1948.

(E 615/2/31)

CONFIDENTIAL.

Dear Higham,

I enclose herein a copy of a letter from Washington Chancery about the Hondurian motor-ship "Patuca". You may care to pass on the Company's request to Gibraltar.

2. I am sending a copy of this letter and its enclosures to Schen.

Yours sincerely

(Sgd.) (J.E. Cable)

J.D. Higham, Esq.,
Colonial Office.

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56

1948

E

E 647

PALESTINE

15 JAN

Registry Number E 647/2/31

TELEGRAM FROM M. Stenclak Bennett

No. Sofia

Dated 59

Received in Registry 13 JAN 15

Illegal Immigration, Bulgaria.
After Sofia despatch 390 (E 415/2/31) Report action could be taken on 4th Jan 31. Note was received from Bulgarian Ministry Foreign Affairs, referring to Minister of AF and reporting irregularly and expressly direct or indirect to the Bulgarian Govt of a certain number of Rumanian and Hungarian nationals travelling to Panama etc.

Last Paper.

615

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

to G.P.P. on E 546/2/31

Jan 15

tel. Barcelona 65

Budapest 47

Panama 10

Rept Sofia 70

Jan 16

G.P.P. Jan. 19.

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

Next Paper.

610

(Minutes.)

Please see also E 587/2/v.

The Bulgarians have been clever in anticipating our protest and their remarks about the United Nations strike me as hard to answer. I think we should concentrate on their impudent assertion that the Jews had "regular passports for immigration to Panama."

I submit draft telegram accordingly.

Southern Defi. M.B.

U.N. (Pol.) Defi.

[Signature]
C.J.-E-CABLE

15/1

Telegram sent. Now see E 661.

[Signature]
16/1

G.P.P. B.O. let to Cyprus 29 15/1

Cyprus let 34 16/1

J.B. Feb. 2

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4. In your representations to the Bulgarian Government on this question, you base yourself on a decision of the United Nations concerning Palestine. If your contention that the emigrants in question intended in fact to go to Palestine is correct I should have to draw your attention to the obvious fact that the Bulgarian Government which is not a member of the United Nations is not in a position to know the decisions of the United Nations about Palestine; it has neither been invited to be represented when the Palestine question was discussed nor informed of the recommendations of the United Nations of which you speak, nor asked to lend its aid in implementation of these recommendations. In these circumstances allow me to emphasise here that it is astonishing to reproach the Bulgarian Government for not conforming to the decisions of the United Nations when it is well known that certain Great Powers, contrary to all spirit of equity and to the express obligation undertaken by them did their utmost to reject admission of Bulgaria to the United Nations at the last session.

4. [sic]. The only way to ensure and render possible the effective collaboration of Bulgaria with the United Nations in all international questions is to have her admitted as a member of that body on the same basis as other states with equality of rights and to guarantee respect for her sovereignty.

[Copy sent to Middle East Secretariat].

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OUTWARD TELEGRAM

FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

OUTWARD TELEGRAM

76021/46A/48

Cypher (O.E.P.)

TO GENRUS (Lord Winster)

FROM S. OF S., COLONIES.

Sent 19th January, 1948. 10.45 hrs.

No. 29 Secret.

Addressed Governor, Cyprus.
Addressed High Commissioner, Palestine, No. 153.
Sofia.

Re: ship immigrants.

H.M. Minister, Sofia, has been instructed to make formal protest to Bulgarian Government about sailing of Pan ships. Before doing so, he requests confirmation of following points:

- (a) Is it established that the majority if not all the immigrants embarked at Bourgas?
- (b) Is there any indication that any immigrants ever held Bohemian visas?
- (c) Did the party contain any Jews of Bulgarian residence?

2. The protest in Sofia, to be effective, must be made quickly. If, as may well be the case, there has been no time as yet for thorough interrogation, or if it is felt that confirmation of these details will take more than a day or two, I should be grateful if you would inform me so that a reply to that effect can be sent to Sofia immediately.

(Copies sent to Foreign Office for retransmission to Sofia).

Copy sent to:-

Foreign Office

- Mr. J. H. Cable.

fr w
41
E

647 2 21
R 2 2 2

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20 JAN 1948



E

p.w.

42

My Reference.....

17 Jan 1948.

Your Reference.....

My dear Cable,

I enclose a copy
of Cyprus tel. no 34
which I will send
over by special
messages.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Holmes.

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647 2 21

INWARD TELEGRAM

INDEXED
R.S.
E43

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES
Cypher (O.T.P.)

FROM CYPRUS (Lord Winster)

D. 16th January, 1948.
R. 16th " " " 16.45 hrs.

IMMEDIATE

No. 34 Secret

Addressed to the S. of S.
Repeated to High Commissioner for
Palestine, No. 27.

Your telegram No. 29.

PAN Ships Immigrants.

(a) Embarkation for both ships took place at Bourgas and all immigrants aboard embarked there.

(b) There is no indication that any of the immigrants held Panamanian visas. None were produced or seen amongst papers of immigrants on arrival in Cyprus.

(c) No evidence has come to light that the party contained any Jews of Bulgarian residence. The great majority were Rumanian and there was a sprinkling of Russians.

Copies sent to:-
Foreign Office - Mr. J.D. Cable.

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158

1948

E

E 654

JAN

46

PALESTINE

Registry Number } E654/2/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No. Panama

Dated 4.

Received in Registry } 14 Jan
15 -

Search Panamapolica
Refer to file no 6. (E#56/2/31). Has matter re: Foreign Office using equipment - 40 til 46 to Rome. but should be glad of any further details. C. Abalega does not appear to merit suspect title and information on CYPRESS - but A#27 is not very convincing in view of last sentence.

Last Paper.

650

(Minutes.)

Telegram sent in reply

8/15/1

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

*8, 99-P
Jan 14/1948*

*tel. Panama no. 9.
Rtd. Rome 108*

*8, 77-P
Jan. 19 on 647
on E647/2/31*

(Action completed.)

L 6/20/1

(Index.)

2/16/48

Next Paper.

E658

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Registry
No. E654/2/31
F.R.C.

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OUT FILE

CYPRESS

F. O.,

48

Despatched M.

Draft.
PANAMA

Telegram.
No. 9
(Date) 15th Jan

~~Confidential~~
Confidential

Repeat to :-
Rome 108

Addressed Panama telegram
no. 9. January 15th ~~and~~ repeated
for information to Rome.

Your telegram no. 4 [of 14th
January: Jewish illegal immigration]

En-Cair.
Code.
Cypher.

Distribution :-
Departmental

Copies to :-

F.I.P.

it is significant, as this is standard practice in the traffic to engage a new crew before the final voyage.

"CYPRESS" and "MEDINA" are both owned by COMPANIA SAN MICHAELE (or MICHEL) S.A. of Panama, of which P. D. PANDELLIS (brother and associate of JEAN PANDELLIS) is a director. My telegram no. 84 to Rome gives additional reasons for suspecting "MEDINA", while recent reports suggest that D'ANDRIA may be connected with "CYPRESS", which brought a cargo of rafts to GENOA for "GUERAZZI", a ship chartered by D'ANDRIA. The report that the crew of the "CYPRESS" are to be paid off is of the "ATAKENA", a Panamanian L.S.T. of 1820 gross registered tons, is owned by Three Star Line in association with American League for

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

3148 Wt. 26469/137 50m 9/46 (51) F.&S.

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60

E

54

E 661

PALESTINE

JAN 1948

Registry Number

E 661/2/31

TELEGRAM FROM

M. Mitchell Beckett

No.

Sofia

Dated

67

Received in Registry

314 5001

15

Illegal Immigration Program.
1/10/48 (1/29) (E 661/2/31) Attached list of not... prepared to send to Bulgarian part... account for publication of required... to be for...
(Minutes.)

Last Paper.

658

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

S.P.P.

Jan 17
(E 654/2/31)

Let Sofia to 113.

Re: W. to 96 Savj.

Re: 30 "

UK. Del. New York. 23 Savj.
Jan 20

& I.I.P. Jan 27
on E 1093/2/31

(Action completed.)

2/2/48

(Index)

24/1/48

Next Paper.

662

I think, as suggested on E 647, that we should endeavour to refute the Bulgarian assertion that the Jews were in possession of passports valid for Panama and I have already submitted a draft telegram in the hope of obtaining evidence for this purpose. Otherwise I think we should agree to Mr. Stendale Bennett's proposals, through Southern Dept and U.N. (Pol.) Dept. may wish to comment on these.

Southern Dept.
U.N. (Pol.) Dept.

[Signature]
(J.E. CABRE)
15/1

We had better get Co to keep Cyprus up to the mark in replying
JB Jan 16

/we

30471 F.O.P

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Minutes.

(see S/P.V. 907, Flang R, attached). 55

The Security
Bulgaria Council Commission of
Investigation to Greece found Bulgaria
guilty of creating disorder in Greece.

Another reason for our opposition
was Bulgaria's refusal to cooperate
with that Commission and her
efforts to obstruct its work.

The present opportunity is an
excellent one to repeat the above
in the plainest terms, emphasizing
that Bulgaria's behaviour, far from
improving, has become immeasurably
worse and has merely served to
confirm the wisdom of our attitude.

In fact, if we have definitely
made up our mind never to trade
Bulgaria's admission into the U.N.
against that of one of our friends,
we could go so far as to say
that unless Bulgaria mends
her ways very considerably
we

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Minutes.

we shall never agree to let her
into the U.N.

Subject to the views of the
Southern Dept. I think that a
passage on the above lines should
be included in the note, preferably
as a peroration at the end.

But whether it is a note,
the note should point out somewhere,
that since Bulgaria is aspiring
to membership of the U.N., it is
up to her, as a good candidate, (if
she is one), to make some effort
to acquaint herself with the activities
of the U.N., rather than to wait in
lordly indifference for U.N. decisions
to be communicated to her. The
obligations which members of the
U.N. are called upon to undertake
are manifold, and Bulgaria
wishes her candidature to be
taken seriously she had better
sit

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get right down to finding out
 what they are. In this connection
 it might be pointed out that
 Article 4 of the Charter of the
 U.N. states that membership
 is open to peace loving states
 which accept the obligations of
 the Charter which are
 the judgement of the organization
 able and willing to carry them
 out.

56

Smithers/Repl.
 for obs.

E. E. TOMKINS

E. E. Tomkins
 20/1.

I think we should certainly refer to
 with energy the allegations contained in the
 Bulgarian note that "certain great powers", including
 of course ourselves, disregarded their obligations in
 keeping Bulgaria out of the United Nations. For
 this purpose many of the arguments contained in
 Mr. Tomkins' minute might well be used; and
 it might be added that she failed to get in
 not because she was vetoed but because her
 application received virtually no support at all.
 When the Security Council last considered her
 application on 1st October 1947 only one vote
 out of eleven was cast in favour of her
 admission. The inference we could draw from this
 is that unless she makes her case, takes steps
 to find out what the U.N. requires her to
 do and aims to fulfil its decisions, she may
 not do even that well next time. *C. Davis*
 20.1.

White

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fact ~~was~~ stated in letter of ⁵⁷
 27 December that Bulgarian action
 is particularly reprehensible now that
 the U.N. have made their recommendations
 for the future of Palestine & H.H.G. are
 negotiating with the transfer of authority
 there with a U.N. Commission (publicly
 makes it necessary to spell this out)

In any case, if Bulgaria aspires
 to membership of the U.N. ~~she would~~
 Bulgarian Govt would be well advised
 to acquaint themselves with the
 activities of that ^{organization} ~~body~~ and of with
 the obligations which its members are
 called upon to undertake.

I think that covers
 Mr. Trankins' second suggestion in
 essence. I have discussed with him and
 he agrees.

Also, - though this is for E Dept
 to decide - the last 2 sentences of
 para 4 ~~of~~ seem a little weak to me.
 Could we not "conclude" either that
 the B.G. are deliberately conniving or
 else that they will in future ensure that
 there is no further despatch etc?

P.T.O.

adrian wilson
 2071

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

We are dealing with
 the general question
 of a protest about
 Roumanian & Bulgarian
 statements on exclusion
 from U.N.O. on another
 file.

AW

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Minutes.

Draft submitted

Dr. Baird

Jan 22

See by Southern & V.N. Pol. Dept

L.P.L. Pyram

24/1*

H.B. Brown

24.1

with

24.1

See

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Cypher/CIP

DIPLOMATIC.

58

FROM SOFIA TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Mr. Sterndale Bennett, D: 7.32 p.m. 14th January, 1948
No. 67
14th January, 1948. R: 8.25 p.m. 14th January, 1948.

Repeated to Washington Saving
Jerusalem " E 661
Bucharest " (JAN 1948)
U.K. Delegation New York

IMPORTANT
Confidential.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 67 of
14th January. Repeated Saving to Washington, Jerusalem,
Bucharest and U.K. Delegation New York.

Confidential. E E/G

My telegrams Nos 59 and 65: Illegal immigration
into Palestine.

I think that we should now send detailed note to
Bulgarian Government on following lines which would
provide comprehensive document for publication if
required.

2. It would begin with statement that Bulgarian
note had been conveyed to you and that I now have
instructions to protest strongly against recent
attempts at illegal immigration into Palestine made
from Bulgarian ports. After reference to statement
in Bulgarian note that Bulgarian Government had to
question regular passports for immigration to Panama,
note might continue with recapitulation of all
warnings and appeals made by this Legation to Ministry
of Foreign Affairs since last August in cases of
Paducah Northland Pan Crescent and Pan York. This
part of the note would particularly stress the request
for searching investigation of any claim that
passengers were proceeding to destinations other
than Palestine.

3. Any information obtained by our authorities
in Cyprus which throws doubt on statements that
emigrants in Pan Crescent and Pan York had
Panamanian visas and included no Bulgarian Jews
might be inserted. I would propose to add a
paragraph also about decision of Panamanian
Government not to renew provisional patents of
registration of these vessels, in view of their
proved utilisation in illegal traffic.

/4.

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Public Record Office
FO 371 68514

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4. It might include that in face of our repeated warnings, Bulgarian Government cannot claim they had [omission] reason to question genuineness of travel documents. Whether or not they consider themselves to have any interest in so doing is a question of ethical standards which they may decide to adopt. But to disclaim such interest is to assume heavy [grp. unrec. ? responsibility]. Bulgarian action has not so far been described as infringement of United Nations Charter as implied in Minister for Foreign Affairs' official notification. But contention advanced in my letter of 27th December is in the view of His Majesty's Government incontestable. [While His Majesty's Government may have occasion to deal separately with Minister for Foreign Affairs' remarks about non-admission of Bulgaria into United Nations, they decline to be drawn into irrelevant discussion of that matter in this connexion.] The serious position in Palestine and steps taken by the United Nations are so much matters of public knowledge, that the Bulgarian Government must be presumed to be fully aware of the serious complications likely to be caused by illegal immigration at the present critical time. They have in any case been left in no doubt by the Legation. It is therefore matter of great regret to His Majesty's Government that Bulgaria has hitherto turned a deaf ear to representations. His Majesty's Government are reluctant to conclude that the Bulgarian Government, while aspiring to membership of United Nations, are yet deliberately conniving at illegal immigration. But if this is not the case they trust that Bulgarian Government, realising that they have been duped in four cases by the unscrupulous promoters of illicit traffic, will take active steps to prevent further despatch from Bulgarian territory and ports, persons who may be trying to enter Palestine illegally.

5. If you approve this general outline you may decide to give me discretion as to exact terms. Otherwise I will send full draft for approval by bag January 17th. It is desirable that the note should go in before any further immigrant ships arrive in this neighbourhood, and I trust therefore that everything will be done to expedite the information asked for in my telegram No. 63.

[Copy sent to Middle East Secretariat].

A A A

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Registry
No. E 661/2/31

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open.

Draft.

Sofia

Telegram.

No. 113

(Date) Jan 24

Repeat to:— Saving

Washington 76 Sec

Jerusalem

Bucharest 30 Sec

U.K. Delegation,
New York

En-Clair.

Code.

Cypher.

Distribution:

Diplomatic

Southern Dept

and

United Nations

Political Dept

first

M. S. Denis 22/1

Jan 22

Copies to:—

11/0

L. H. Ryan

24/1

B. B. Burton

20/1

W. H. M. 24/1

PHER

60

IMPORTANT

2 194

CONFIDENTIAL

Despatched

M.

Addressed to Sofia telegram No. 113

of January 24th repeated for information
Saving
to Washington, Jerusalem, Bucharest and
United Kingdom Delegation, New York.

Your telegram No. 67 of January 14th:

Jewish Illegal Immigration

You will have received in my telegrams

Nos. 62 and 79 what further information is

available from Cyprus. There is also the

information contained in Bucharest telegram

No. 86. You should now address a note to

the Bulgarian Government as suggested but the

line proposed in paragraph 4 of your telegram

under reference should be strengthened as

follows:—

2. " In the light of our repeated warnings
and of the obvious fact that a mass movement
of Jews was on foot, the Bulgarian Government
cannot claim that they had no reason to question
the genuineness of the travellers' documents.

There is no Panamanian representative in
Roumania authorised to grant visas and the
same probably applies to other ~~Balkan~~ Balkan
countries. There are numerous precedents

for this kind of mass movement by Jewish illegal
immigrants to Palestine (the traffic has received world-
wide publicity) but there is not one precedent
for such a movement of Jews to Panama. It
is as difficult to suppose that the Bulgarian
Government were as ignorant of the real nature
and purpose of this journey by Jewish illegal
immigrants/

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

(13556) Wt. 4.8897-140 100m 3147 G.S.S. Gp 620

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3. The Minister for Foreign Affairs' implication that Bulgarian action was described as an infringement of United Nations Charter is both untrue and irrelevant; and he does not deny the incontrovertible fact stated in letter of 22nd December that Bulgarian action is particularly reprehensible now that the United Nations have made their recommendations for the future of Palestine and His Majesty's Government are discussing the relinquishment of authority there with a United Nations Commission. In any case if Bulgaria aspires to membership of the United Nations Bulgarian Government would be well advised to acquaint themselves with the activities of that organisation and with the obligations which its members are called upon to undertake".

4. Finally, please substitute for the last three sentences of paragraph 4 something on the following lines. "We can only conclude from the evidence available that the Bulgarian authorities have either been deliberately conniving at the illegal immigration traffic or that a mistake has been made and that it can therefore be assumed that no further party will be allowed to leave in this manner".

5. Please telegraph text of your note.

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1949
 22
 E 687 12/31/6
 Palestine
 E 687 / G
 63

Paris
 // Saving
 Dated 13 Jan

Sette Fraielli

Last Paper.
 E 658

(Minutes.)
 This has been given I.I.P. distribution.

References.
 E 317/2/9.

This is satisfactory so far
 as it goes.
 B.V. 23/1/50 Jan 21

(Print.)

Western Dept. 1/19 Jan.

(How disposed of.)
 8) 11P 15 Jan

(Action completed.)
 25/2/51

(Index.)
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Next Paper.

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23

Palestine
GOVERN

EY0Y /G
16/1

EY0Y 12/19 31/6
Panama
2
dated 13 Jan

Illegal immigration

Last Paper.
E68Y

References.
E1209/148/9

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)
8)11P ✓ 14 Jan

(Action completed.)
25 21/1

(Index.)
12/1

Next Paper.

(Minutes.)
N.A. 12/1.
The present Panamanian technique seems to be to withdraw registration when the ship has safely left her last port en route for Palestine.
16/1
19/1
JB Jan 20

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26. 1948

Palestine
EASTERN

E 750/G
19 JAN 1948 67

E 750/2/2 31/G
Mr. Sorell,
Bucharest.
no. 69.
Dated 16/1.
Recd 19/1.

Illegal Immigration from
Roumania

Last Paper.
E 716

References.
E 309/2/9.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)
el p.
19.

(Action completed.) (Index.)
2/21 *WPA*

Next Paper.

(Minutes.)

We are doing our best to delay
the "Medina"
Southern ¹⁹⁴⁵ Dept.

J. Branley

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Cypher/OTF

E
DEPARTMENTAL.

Green

FROM BUCHAREST TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

68

Mr. Sarell. D. 8.21 a.m. 17th January, 1948.
No. 69.

16th January, 1948. R. 10.20 a.m. 17th January, 1948.
Repeated to Angora, Jerusalem, Middle East Office,
C in C Mediterranean Malta and Sofia.

CONFIDENTIAL.

E750
19 JAN 1948

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 69 of
January, 16th, repeated to Angora, Jerusalem, Middle East
Office C in C Mediterranean Malta and Sofia.

Your telegram No. 52. *E76*

Reports from well informed sources state that another
batch of 9,000 illegal Jewish immigrants are assembling in
Roumania to leave for Palestine from a Black Sea port.
There are indications that this information is correct.

2. Reference is made in several reports to a "large
cargo vessel" able to take the whole batch of 9,000. This
may refer to "Medina".

3. On the other hand a prominent organiser of this
traffic in Roumania told one reliable source that further
departures from Roumania had now been suspended on orders
received from Jewish authorities in Palestine. This may,
of course, be a "plant" but it is difficult see why organisers
should revert to this stratagem when they know we are
powerless to prevent this or other departures.

Foreign Office please repeat to Angora, Jerusalem,
Middle East Office Cairo and C in C Mediterranean Malta as
my telegrams Nos. 2, 3, 2 and 2 respectively.

[Repeated to Angora and Middle East Office Cairo.
Copies sent to Telegraph Section Colonial Office and War
Registry Admiralty for repetition to Jerusalem and C. in C.
Mediterranean].

[Copy sent to Middle East Secretariat].

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19 JAN 1948

68

E

E 775

1948

20 JAN 1948 69

Registry Number EYYS/2/31
 FROM Dr Greenway
 No. Legation Panama
 Dated
 Received in Registry 12 Jan 20 -

SS MEDINA
 Copy of note n°8 to Aboute for Foreign Relations reporting that urgent steps to be taken to secure withdrawal of Panamanian Registry from the SS. insubria which is to be used for alleged Jewish Immigration.

Last Paper.

Y5-6

References.

24/

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8, dip. am. 80
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 Human Jan 28

(Action completed.)

Y 11/20/1

(Index)

22/4/48

Next Paper.

808

(Minutes.)

Copy Co.
 Cab. Office } usual names

NA Dept
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 20/1.

JB Jan 21

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Reference:-
FO 371
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No.

HIS Majesty's **Minister** at **Panama**
presents his compliments to **H.M. Principal Secretary of**
and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned
documents.

British Minister, **E 775**
British Legation,
Panama.

20 JAN 1948
12th January 1948

Reference to previous correspondence:

F.O. Telegram No. 3 dated 10-1-48

Description of Enclosure. **17091/25/3**

Name and Date.	Subject.
Addressed to Minister for Foreign Relations. 12th January 1948.	Jewish illegal immigration.

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FO 371
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69

E

E 808

73

1948

CALENDAR

21 JAN 1948

Registry Number E808/2/31
 FROM Embassy
 No. Rome
 Dated 24
 Received in Registry 15 JAN 21 -

Jewish Illegal Immigration
 Express dissatisfaction that 'Giovanni
 Maria' and 'Maria Christina' were allowed
 to embark from and sail for Palestine
 from Italian territory after requests that
 effective measures should be taken to detain
 them.

Last Paper.

775

(Minutes.)

Copy Cabinet office (Col. Sherman)
 Co. (Mr. Graham)

References.

11642/84/21 '47

Italian Section

18 Jan 21

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

to Mr. Graham. BU
 Col. Sherman. Col. off
~~on 22~~
 Jan 22

(Action completed.)

PP 20/27/1

(Index.)

24/1/48

Next Paper.

809

26513 F.O.P.

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No. 24
(90/14/48)

E 308

21 JAN 1948

74

HIS Majesty's **Ambassador**
at Rome
presents his compliments to **Secretary of State, Foreign Office,**
and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned documents.

British.....**Embassy,**.....
Rome.

15th January, 48
....., 193....

Reference to previous correspondence:

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Note Verbale No. 22 to Ministry of Foreign Affairs. 13.1.48.	Jewish illegal immigration.

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COPY

90/14/48
N.V. No. 22

NOTE VERBALE

His Britannic Majesty's Embassy presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and in continuance of previous correspondence regarding the use of Italian ports and resources by ships engaged in transporting refugees illegally to Palestine and the abuses of Italian territory committed by the organisers of this traffic, has the honour to inform them that the two Italian ships "Maria Christina" and "Giovanni Maria", whose identity is already known to the Ministry, arrived in Palestinian waters at the end of December carrying respectively 882 and 688 illegal immigrants.

2. The Ministry are already aware from previous correspondence with the Embassy of the serious aggravation which this traffic causes to the situation in Palestine. The Embassy have already been obliged, in their Note Verbale No. 325/294/47 of 3rd December, to express the dissatisfaction of His Majesty's Government that the "Giovanni Maria" should have been permitted to prepare for and to commence her recent voyage from an Italian port. While noting from the Ministry's Aide Memoire No. 11/40692/569 of 30th December that this ship has subsequently been subjected to a fine for transporting unauthorised passengers, the Embassy are obliged to renew their protest that sufficiently effective measures should not have been taken either to prevent this ship sailing from Italy or to restrict her movements, with the result that she succeeded in reaching Palestine with a large number of illegal immigrants.

3. As regards the "Maria Christina", the Embassy has furthermore been instructed to inform the Ministry that the illegal emigrants carried by this ship are now known to have embarked from Italy. It is understood for example that some of the Jews in question left the vicinity of Palese near Bari on 9th December, and on the following day embarked near Orbetello on the Tyrrhenian coast. The Embassy are at a loss to understand how a large party of refugees could in such a brief period have succeeded in leaving Palese, in travelling across the breadth of Italy and in embarking on a ship without the local Italian authorities becoming aware of the movement, and they have been instructed to express the serious concern of His Majesty's Government that this illegal embarkation should not have been prevented. They trust that the Italian Government will arrange for appropriate investigations to be made into the circumstances.

4. The Embassy have at the same time been instructed to draw the Italian Government's urgent attention to the presence in Italian ports of a number of suspect ships (whose names have already been communicated to the Ministry) and to express the hope of His Majesty's Government that all means possible will be used to control their activities.

Rome.
January 13th, 1948.

75

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70

E

E 809

21 JAN 1948 76

1948

COLLECTIVE

Registry Number } E809/2/31
 FROM Embassy
 No. Rome
 Dated 25
 Received in Registry } 15 Jan
 21 -

Illegal Immigrant Ships.
 Copy of Aide Memoire to the Foreign Office of 15/1/48. Asking them to delay until after the end of the week, the sailing to Palestine of suspect ships, "ATAKENA" and "CYPRUS" now at Genoa, and "MEDINA" expected at Genoa 15 or 16 Jan.

Last Paper.

808

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8, Higham. 60
 Entered Cal. off
 Jan 22nd

(Action completed.)

90/2/11

(Index.)

24/1/48

Next Paper.

813

(Minutes.)

Copy to

Cal. office

usual names

Strain section

JB Jan 22

27/1

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Reference: FO 371

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No.25
(90/19/48)

E 77

HIS Majesty's Ambassador at Rome
presents his compliments to Secretary of State, Foreign Office
and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned documents.

British Embassy,
Rome.

E 809

21 JAN 1948

15th January, 1948

Reference to previous correspondence :

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Aide Memoire to Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Rome. 14.1.48.	Jewish illegal immigration.

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COPYAIDE MEMOIRE

There are two suspect ships of considerable size now in Genoa. These are:-

- (a) ATALENA, a Panamanian ship of 1820 tons, whose name was communicated by telephone to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the 3rd January;
- (b) CYPRESS, a Panamanian ship of 650 tons, whose name was given to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in a letter to Signor Marieni No. 389/62/47 of the 11th December.

A further large-sized suspect ship, the MEDINA, of 5426 tons, flying the Panamanian flag, is expected to arrive in Genoa on 15th or 16th January.

His Britannic Majesty's Embassy have been instructed to point out the extreme seriousness of the situation which would develop if these three ships should succeed in arriving in Palestine carrying illegal immigrants. They could transport some 14,000 passengers and there is only place left in the Cyprus camps for 3000 persons. Moreover the ATALENA is operated by the American League for a Free Palestine, an organisation said to be pledged to support Jewish terrorism.

The arrival of these ships with their complement of passengers in Palestine before the end of the Mandate might well provoke serious violence there, and their departure from an Italian port would consequently be a matter of gravest concern to His Majesty's Government and a threat to peace in the Middle East. In the circumstances His Majesty's Government most earnestly trusts that the Italian Government will help them by delaying departure of these ships until after the end of the Mandate, i.e. at the most for only about four months.

Rome.
January 14th, 1948.

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E

E 815

79

1948

21 JAN 1948

Registry Number *E 815/2/31*
 FROM *Embassy*
 No. *Archers*
 Dated *8.*
 Received in Registry *9 Jan 21 ~*

Jewish Illegal Immigration, Black List.
Refer Sudan note to Ministry n° 539 of 19/12
E 179/2/8. Transmits note n° 13 of 9 Jan
to Ministry, which enclosed listendum n° 1
to Black List of ships and individuals suspected
of being involved in Jewish Illegal Immigration.

Last Paper.

813

(Minutes.)

References.

E 179/2/8.

JD Jan 21

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820

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81

BRITISH EMBASSY

ATHENS.

No. 15
(78/3/43)
CONFIDENTIAL

His Britannic Majesty's Embassy present their compliments to the Royal Hellenic Ministry for Foreign Affairs and, with reference to their Note No. 539 of 19th December, have the honour to communicate annexed to this Note two copies of addendum No. 1 to the Black List of ships and individuals suspected of being involved in the illegal immigration of Jews into Palestine.

His Majesty's Embassy avail themselves of this opportunity to renew to the Royal Hellenic Ministry for Foreign Affairs the assurance of their highest consideration.

9th January, 1948.

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E

E 820

21 JAN 1948

1948

82

Registry Number E820/2/31

FROM Lord Keverdale

No. Washington

Dated 84

Received in Registry 15 JAN 21 -

Captain, F. B. Johnson

Transmit copies of correspondence with Embassy of Panama re registration of "Captain F. B. Johnson" under the Panama flag. Instructions were sent by Panamanian Embassy to Panamanian Consul at New York, instructing him not to accede to requests that this ship be recorded in Panamanian Registry.

Last Paper.

815

(Minutes.)

Copy Del. office

References.

CO - usual names

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NA Dept.

this is better

JB Jan 21

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

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(Action completed.)

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24/4/48

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